## EXHIBIT C

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MB3KSILC
      UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
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      SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
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      GERARD SILLAM, et al.,
                     Plaintiffs,
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                                              21 CV 6675 (CM)(OTW)
                 v.
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      LABATON SUCHAROW LLP, et al.,
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                     Defendants.
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                                                New York, N.Y.
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                                                November 3, 2022
                                                10:15 a.m.
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      Before:
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                              HON. ONA T. WANG,
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                                                Magistrate Judge
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                                 APPEARANCES
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      RAISER & KENNIFF
           Attorneys for Plaintiff
15
      BY: DOUG M. REDA
16
      GANFER SHORE LEEDS & ZAUDERER LLP
17
           Attorneys for Defendants
      BY: IRA MATETSKY
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      ALSO PRESENT:
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      JAMES CHRISTIE, Labaton Sucharow LLP
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(Case called)

MR. REDA: Douglas Reda, for the plaintiff, from Raiser & Kenniff, 300 Old Country Road, Mineola, New York.

THE COURT: Good morning.

Good morning, your Honor.

MR. MATETSKY: Good morning, your Honor. Ira

Matetsky, from Ganfer Shore, for the defendants, Labaton

Sucharow LLP, and with me is James Christie, the assistant

general counsel of Labaton.

THE COURT: Great. Good morning.

We are here because, number one, I haven't seen you in a while; number two, I think you had asked for -- may have asked for a somewhat extended discovery deadline, but there are two, as I understand it, outstanding discovery disputes.

I'm not hearing oral argument, because I've read your letter, but does somebody want to tell me the status of those disputes? Are they both still live? Has anything gotten resolved or gotten closer to resolution?

MR. REDA: Well, Judge, if I may?

THE COURT: Yes, go ahead.

MR. REDA: Do you want me to stand?

THE COURT: You don't need to. It might be easier to speak into the microphone that way.

MR. REDA: The discovery deadline was extended by Judge McMahon, so that's not an issue. She extended it, just

recently, to the end of February, I believe, and then the two issues that we asked for you to intervene on are still open.

One is where the depositions will take place, and also the confidentiality agreements. We have not made, I don't think, any headway on that.

MR. MATETSKY: I would agree with that, your Honor. Good morning.

I thank you for welcoming us. I don't think we've actually been in front of you before.

THE COURT: No, that's the other reason I wanted to see you. Now that we're doing more things in person, sometimes it's much more efficient to see each other in person, actually be face to face. It's a lot easier to take tough positions and not have a fulsome back-and-forth when you're doing it behind a screen or through a telephone. So, that was part of the reason why.

MR. MATETSKY: I agree with that, your Honor.

We haven't even before your Honor virtually in this case before. This case is assigned to Judge McMahon, who, typically, only sends the referral to the magistrate judge when a dispute arises, and we have actually been able to work out, through the meet-and-confer process, many issues that we're not going to burden your Honor with.

As Mr. Reda said, there are two open issues that are kind of blocking us with proceeding with the discovery, which

now needs to be completed, by Judge McMahon's order, by

February 28. One is that we sought the entry of what we

thought was a completely routine confidentiality stipulation in

this case. We followed your Honor's recommended form from the

Court's website literally verbatim with an addendum at the end

required by Judge McMahon's individual rules. And we don't see

why that order should not be entered in this case, as it is in

any other case.

I won't go on because the Court said you don't want oral argument, but if you want two more minutes, I can give you that.

THE COURT: What I'm hearing from plaintiffs is that plaintiffs don't believe that a protective order is necessary.

Why is that?

MR. REDA: Judge, first, because the judge's rules prevent --

THE COURT: When you say "the judge's rules," you mean my rules or Judge McMahon's?

MR. REDA: No, no, Judge McMahon's rules kind of frowned on that.

But, also, we have offered a limited resolution of this, that everything, of course, would be nonpublished and not to be disbursed, and anything that has to do with nonparty personal information — bank accounts, Social Security numbers — would be redacted.

THE COURT: That's in my individual practices anyway. You don't need a motion to seal, you don't need a protective order. You should automatically be redacting PII.

What I want to know is what's the issue regarding a protective order, generally, which I generally don't have a problem with. That's different from a sealing order, okay? I want to make sure that we are actually talking about the same thing here.

I'm not talking about a sealing order where there needs to be a higher standard met and a higher burden met to seal and redact documents that are exchanged. I'm talking about a protective order that just governs the exchange of information, the exchange of documents, so you don't have each other potentially or somebody else potentially publishing documents outside of this proceeding.

So, I want to understand — are you having a problem with sealing, which is not the issue here, or are you having a problem with a protective order?

MR. REDA: Well, I guess I have a problem with the way they worded the protective order, that they said if there's a dispute, every time that we can't agree on whether something is confidential or not, we've got to come to you. To me, that's a waste of time.

THE COURT: You've got to come to me if there's a dispute that you can't resolve among yourselves.

MR. REDA: Right.

And it appears that we already can't resolve even the protective order parts. I anticipate every time they decide something is confidential and subject to the order, and we don't agree, we're going to be coming here. I think that our position that we will agree, of course, not to publish anything to anybody, and --

THE COURT: That's the protective order, though. So what is the dispute? I don't understand.

MR. REDA: Well, my understanding is that they want more than that. If all we're talking about is that we won't publish anything to anybody else, and we can redact the --

THE COURT: You want to point me to a particular -- is there a draft or proposed protective order that's on the docket? Why don't you point me to the specific language that you take issue with.

MR. MATETSKY: What we've used is your Honor's verbatim form.

THE COURT: Do you want to point me to particular language, Mr. Reda, that you believe is not warranted or unsupported?

MR. REDA: I apologize, your Honor, I don't have that document in front of me.

THE COURT: Well, we're here for two discovery-related disputes. This is one of them. Are you not prepared to talk

about it?

MR. REDA: I am, Judge. I just didn't have the --

MR. MATETSKY: I can hand it to Mr. Reda.

THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

(Pause)

THE COURT: And, Mr. Matetsky, is that -- you mentioned that your proposed protective order also has an addendum that follows Judge McMahon's individual practices. Is that anywhere on -- where is that on the docket?

MR. MATETSKY: We haven't filed it on the docket, but I can hand up a copy.

THE COURT: Okay, sure.

MR. MATETSKY: Judge McMahon's rules said the assigned district judge provides that she's willing to so order protective orders, but she requires there be this language in the last page. And, in essence, what it says — and I assume your Honor would agree with this — that by so ordering the protective order, the Court is not thereby making an independent determination as to the confidential status of documents it hasn't seen, it's facilitating the discovery process.

MR. REDA: My, I guess, concern, Judge, is that they will stamp everything confidential, and, therefore -- and if we don't agree with it, we're going to keep coming back here. I have no problem, as I said earlier, not disclosing this to

nonparties and to redact personal information, but I'm concerned that they're going to say everything is confidential.

THE COURT: Right.

MR. REDA: It says for attorneys or experts only.

Does that mean that the clients can't look at the documents,

also? I was unclear about --

THE COURT: Yes, that's a higher level of confidentiality designation. Sometimes I get disputes about that, and we can deal with those as they come up. I will tell you that even when I was in private practice before I took the bench, often the lawyers would stamp everything confidential and then agree to dedesignate if something were to be attached to a motion, because then it ends up on the docket, and it's an attachment or an exhibit, and it is presumptively — it ought to be dedesignated, okay?

So this is what I'm telling you now, is that if something like that issue or that occurrence comes up, I expect you to be able to work together and discuss whether, if it's already been designated confidential, whether it ought to be dedesignated or subject to a limited redaction. And usually the parties agree on that.

I would prefer, as I can tell from Judge McMahon's addendum, that she would also prefer that parties not in the first instance blanket designate everything confidential and then work together to dedesignate things that they want to

attach to motions or attach as exhibits for some other reason. That said, I have practiced with ESI much more recently, and it is sometimes too burdensome, if you're dealing with a voluminous ESI production, to go document by document and make a confidentiality determination immediately, which is why I don't necessarily agree -- I don't require an addendum like Judge McMahon does, but I do expect the parties, if they intend to file documents that were produced as exhibits to motions or to use them at trial or at hearings, to then take a look at that subset and consider whether those documents should be dedesignated, and if you agree that they should be dedesignated, and they can be attached either with limited redaction of PII, which always should remain redacted, or attached in full, I am fine with that. And that does not in any way violate the protective order.

Does that make sense?

MR. REDA: Yes, Judge.

THE COURT: Okay.

Does that alleviate your concerns?

MR. REDA: Yes, Judge, but I just want to be sure this does not preclude, of course, us sharing all the documents with our clients.

THE COURT: Correct, correct.

Now, let me talk to you a little bit about the attorneys' eyes only designation. I'm not sure that it should

apply in this case. It's in my form order in the event the parties need to use it, but I don't think that -- obviously, I haven't seen your documents, but I can't think of a situation right now where that might be necessary.

Where I have seen it come up, and where I think it is warranted, for example, are trade secret cases, where the attorneys may need to see certain documents from the other side, but they don't want their clients, obviously, to see that because then they're continuing to disclose -- potentially disclose new trade secrets, right? And I've also seen it in cases where there might be a law enforcement or public safety issue where you might not want the client to see the document, but it's okay for the lawyer to see them.

MR. REDA: So as long as the clients are still able to because these are the type of documents I would need to go over with the clients.

THE COURT: Of course, of course.

And I think that is expected with the proposed protective order.

MR. MATETSKY: Your Honor, if I may, we certainly don't intend to stamp every document in the case confidential, we've already produced many documents that are not designated as confidential, and when we complete our production, we will review the documents. We're not going to stamp confidential on every page just out of force of habit. That would be

unnecessary.

I also anticipate we'd be making limited, if any, use of an attorneys' eyes only tier.

That being said, we do have concerns about how the plaintiffs might use the documents in this case. The plaintiffs have issued two press releases about the fact that they're in litigation with Labaton. We don't think that's necessary. We certainly are not producing documents to be used for a press campaign. The plaintiffs have brought three related proceedings in France. When there were settlement discussions before I was involved, before Mr. Reda was involved, documents were shared with plaintiffs, then counsel, for settlement purposes, those documents made their way into the filings in France, in violation of the Rule 408 privilege that we believe attached to them.

We are producing documents for use in this case, particularly the documents we designate as confidential, and we'd like it to be clear — either we can insert it in the protective order, but certainly we're on the record — I'd like it to be very clear that the documents we produce to Mr. Reda's office and designate confidential are being produced for use in this case. If there's a dispute as to whether a given document should be confidential, we'll certainly discuss it in good faith with Mr. Reda. If there's an issue as to that he wants to file Bates number 1234 with his next motion and doesn't

think that he should have to file them under seal, we're certainly open to that discussion with coming to your Honor as the last resort if we're unable to agree to it. But we need there to be a confidentiality stip, a protective order here, and we need for the plaintiffs to take it seriously and honor it.

THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Reda?

MR. REDA: Well, there is no indication from me that I'm -- since I've been involved in the case, but that anything that was disclosed prior was subject to any confidentiality agreement. We've already agreed or said that we would nondisclosure. I can't control the fact that there are pending criminal charges against this defendant in another country - I have no control over that - but the clients have indicated, and I said in our arguments, that they would not be disclosed in any way. So, I don't think -- again, I don't like the for the attorneys' eyes only because this is a case that involves a lot of, I think, complex stuff.

THE COURT: I don't think, and the representation I hear from defendants is they don't necessarily anticipate there being attorneys' eyes only designations or that it would be used in a blanket situation.

That said, what I'm hearing right now, and I'm getting a little more background, and sometimes this is how it is helpful to have you all here in person, is that there is more

history before, and that predates this lawsuit, that I need to be aware of. So thank you for bringing that to my attention.

I heard Mr. Matetsky mention that some of this happened before Mr. Reda was brought into the case. So, I understand this to be -- and based on Mr. Reda's representations here, that he is going to have to manage his clients, and we can't do that in the first instance, nor can the defendants. If there ends up being some dispute over an alleged violation of this protective order, which I will enter unless you have -- Mr. Reda, unless you have specific edits that you want to make to it, which I will enter then, that is something to be dealt with down the line, if something happens. But, in the first instance right now, I'll deal with it, we'll get the protective order entered, and then we'll hope that there isn't a violation, and if there is, we'll deal with that when the time comes.

MR. MATETSKY: I appreciate that, your Honor. I agree with that. We can upload this protective order in the stipulated form with Judge McMahon's addendum or not, as you direct.

I do just need to respond for the record, because there is a record, to the reference to criminal charges. I'm not a French lawyer, but my understanding is that any individual in France can go to some government office and fill out a form and thereby initiate a criminal proceeding. The

reference to criminal charges should not in any way be understood as meaning that any French government official or prosecutor or judge or anyone other than Mr. Sillam individually and his retained lawyer have asserted that there's been any wrongdoing of any kind. That's a severely misleading presentation without that background, which has been, as I say, indicated through press releases that although not issued by Mr. Reda's office, had his name on them, and we need to be very clear about that, your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. REDA: Just so I'm clear, that's a little disingenuous because --

THE COURT: Okay, stop, stop. I'm entering the protective order. If there's problems later on, we'll deal with them when they come, okay?

You know what my position is on this. Mr. Matetsky, thank you for sharing that with me, but I have actually litigated cases and defended cases in France. So, I understand how it works.

MR. MATETSKY: Okay. Does he file a protective order this afternoon?

THE COURT: Yes, please.

MR. REDA: I would just ask that the only part that may be deleted is paragraph 4, at least the expert for designation for attorneys or experts only.

THE COURT: It just says that the parties need to meet and confer. You know what, you're going to meet and confer, and you're going to talk to Mr. Matetsky about whether paragraph 4 belongs in the protective order or not. I will point out again that this is the form protective order -- as represented by Mr. Matetsky, this is the form protective order that is on my website, which means that it has gone through many levels of review. I will tell you that hundreds of parties have entered that protective order and not had any problem with it. They've not felt a need to strike out any of the paragraphs.

Also, in my individual practices, which you should make yourselves aware of, is the requirement to meet and confer in good faith on all of these issues. We have spent way too much time on a protective order that is a form that, in the vast majority of cases, gets entered as stipulated.

MR. REDA: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Next issue, location of plaintiff's depositions.

MR. REDA: Yes, Judge.

THE COURT: Now, Mr. Matetsky, it's your turn to be in the hot seat. Why do you have to have these depositions conducted in New York? Why can't you have them conducted virtually or travel to France and do it?

MR. MATETSKY: Well, start with the last point, your

Honor. I don't believe it's legally permissible for American lawyers to travel to France and take depositions. The French government frowns on American --

THE COURT: I've done it, so it's possible.

MR. REDA: Okay. I've been told by French lawyers, it's problematic.

THE COURT: It may be problematic, but those are problems that you can work through, because I have done it.

MR. MATETSKY: Is that merely by flying to France and doing it, or is that going through the Hague Convention?

THE COURT: I'm not going to give you legal advice -MR. MATETSKY: Sure.

THE COURT: -- but it was not as difficult as it might seem. It was done. And, again, the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure here say that you should work -- and my individual practices say that if you can stipulate to a process and a location that you can agree is legal and valid and possible, then you should do that. But I will tell you, I have taken depositions in France. I had to depose a Swiss citizen. I did not do that in Switzerland.

MR. MATETSKY: Okay.

But let me return to the initial motion. There is a presumption, which your Honor is familiar with, and we cited a couple of cases in the joint letter, the plaintiffs decided to bring this case in New York. They could have brought the case

in France. We know they have brought cases in France. So there's a presumption that plaintiffs should travel to the district. It is a rebuttable presumption, but it does exist, and that's the starting point.

THE COURT: Okay. All right.

But I also point you to Rule 30(b)(4), which also provides that the parties may stipulate, or the Court may, on motion, order that a deposition be taken by a remote means.

MR. MATETSKY: That is certainly true, depositions have been taken by remote means, and we're all certainly more familiar with the procedure for doing that now than we were a couple of years ago. But these depositions would be particularly difficult to take by remote means, and we believe that should be a last resort here. These plaintiffs have indicated they're going to have to testify through an interpreter.

THE COURT: I've done that in Paris with food poisoning. So what's your next issue?

MR. MATETSKY: If the Court is ordering food poisoning, I'm going to take it.

THE COURT: No, I'm not.

MR. MATETSKY: But we're speaking of the question of live versus remote, and then we can speak to the question --

THE COURT: Right.

MR. MATETSKY: -- of where, if it's live.

Remote depositions are problematic here. This is a document-intensive case. We've all dealt with depositions. I don't know if your Honor has tried cases virtually, but it's cumbersome in a document-intensive --

THE COURT: I've done a document-heavy video deposition by videoconference about 20 years ago.

MR. MATETSKY: Probably not with a case involving an interpreter, though. And it's a last resort. I don't know whether your Honor was taking or defending that deposition --

THE COURT: Look, the reason why I'm talking about my past experience and my experience from 20 years ago is to tell you it can be done.

MR. MATETSKY: It can be done — we're not disputing that.

THE COURT: So here's my ruling: You're to meet and confer and determine whether you would like to take an in-person deposition, either in Paris or some other location if Paris is not -- your clients are in Paris, Mr. Reda?

MR. REDA: Yes, Judge.

THE COURT: -- in Paris or another location if you want to do it in person - meet and confer - or if you want to take the deposition by remote means. I expect that you will work together to do this. I expect that you will work together and find some agreement. I do not expect there to be a holdup or an absolute refusal to do one or the other.

MR. MATETSKY: So your Honor is directing that it is not going to direct they take place in person in New York?

THE COURT: Correct.

So, to the extent it's a motion to compel an in-person deposition in New York City of the plaintiffs, I am not going to require that. That part is denied.

You do have to get their depositions. You can choose whether you want to do it in person and go to Paris or somewhere else if Paris is not feasible for whatever reason, or whether you want to take it by remote means.

MR. MATETSKY: Would the Court direct that the plaintiffs undertake the cost of travel to Paris? Because the presumption is that the defendants come to New York, and if the Court is giving them an exception to that, which your Honor has discretion to do, we believe it should be at their expense.

THE COURT: Take a look at Rule 30. It was amended in 2020. I'm not sure if it's going to be amended again as of December 1st of this year, but take a look at Rule 30, see what it says, do a little case law research, and figure it out, work it out amongst yourselves. My intention right now is not to shift costs.

MR. MATETSKY: I am familiar with that case law. My understanding is it's discretionary with the Court. We've heard what your Honor says.

THE COURT: Yes.

Anything else at this time?

MR. MATETSKY: Only to ask whether you would want to set a control date for a follow-up conference? We could always cancel it if there's nothing to talk about.

THE COURT: Actually, why don't you file a joint letter letting me know what is happening with the deposition and when it is happening. I'll give you to November 10th for a joint status letter to figure out where and how deposition is happening.

MR. REDA: The deposition will either be remote or in Paris or someplace in France that's agreed upon?

THE COURT: Correct.

MR. REDA: All right.

THE COURT: But I really don't want to hear that it's, for example, someplace in France that's impossible for defendants to get to, after they have said that they elect to do it in person, okay?

MR. REDA: Yes, Judge.

THE COURT: You are to work together to make this as smooth and simple and cost effective a process as it can be.

MR. REDA: Yes, Judge.

MR. MATETSKY: We will meet and confer, we will talk to our client about their preference.

If France is difficult, another option I've sometimes seen is it's easier to take depositions in the U.K. than in

France, and we might --

THE COURT: That is exactly where I deposed the Swiss citizen. So work together. Certainly, London is much more convenient than having to come to New York, but work together. So the two parts are in person or remote and location.

I hope not to hear more disputes.

What else is outstanding as far as discovery? Where are you as far as document discovery? I guess you haven't really started because we haven't entered the protective order?

MR. MATETSKY: No, respectfully, your Honor, we have started. Plaintiffs have produced documents. We're waiting for confirmation that their production is complete, and we served a second request to which the responses were due, I think, yesterday, so I'll ask Mr. Reda later where that stands. But defendants have produced significant documents that were not subject to the confidentiality issue. And if the Court enters the protective order this week, we'll be in a position to complete our production this month, to be followed by depositions with the discovery cutoff of February 28.

THE COURT: Okay.

So, I'll get a joint status letter on November 10th, and I'm also going to direct a joint status letter on December 16th that is generally about the status of discovery.

So, the December 16th letter will tell me what you've done to date, what you have coming up, what you have planned.

If you have disputes that are brewing, maybe a little heads-up about them. If it makes sense for us to have a short conference so that I can just address the dispute before it becomes a big, big dispute, with a capital D, I'll be happy to do that.

Also, in the interim, I'm not inviting this, but I always make it available — look at my individual practices. If you have a dispute that arises between November 10th and December 16th that you've met and conferred on and that is holding up other things, and you need a quicker answer, take a look at my individual practices, you raise it preferably by jointly status letter. If you're unable to do that, then raise it in two separate letters, but I prefer a joint letter identifying the dispute, identifying the two positions, and how you haven't been able to work it out, and then I will try to address it as soon as I can, especially if it's holding up other discovery. All right?

MR. REDA: Yes, Judge.

THE COURT: Anything else at this time?

MR. MATETSKY: Let me just clarify, when we submit the protective order, did you want it with or without Judge
McMahon's addendum?

THE COURT: I am fine for you to add Judge McMahon's addendum, maybe to just reference Judge McMahon's individual practices, so it's not confusing that it says the Court so

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ordering --
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               MR. MATETSKY: We'll clarify that. I think we've done
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      that, but we'll double-check.
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               THE COURT: Okay. All right.
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               Anything else?
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               MR. REDA: No. Thank you, Judge.
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               THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Reda.
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               MR. REDA: Thank you.
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               MR. MATETSKY: Thank you.
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               THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Matetsky.
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               We are adjourned. I request that the parties order a
      copy of the transcript, share the cost 50/50.
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               Thank you.
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               MR. MATETSKY: We submit that to the Court?
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               THE COURT: You don't need to. Once you order it, it
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      will be on the docket.
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               MR. MATETSKY: Very good.
               THE COURT: Thanks.
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